

Jan 23, 2000

Statement to the Members of Evangelistic Temple

By

A Majority of the Lawfully Appointed and Sitting Members of

The Board of Elders, Evangelistic Temple

Ada, Oklahoma

Over the last few weeks, our church has been embroiled in a dispute between a majority of the Board of Elders, and the Pastor, Rev. Jesse Rodgers.

The three Elders whose names appear below are a majority of the duly, properly, and legally constituted Board of Elders. We deeply regret the discord and struggle that now troubles our Church.

Background. The three Elders who issue this statement, have served as Elders of this church for twenty, fifteen, and twelve, years, respectively. The Rev. Jesse Rodgers has been at our Church for less than two years.

This dispute started when the Rev. Jesse Rodgers refused to consult with the Board of Elders before making changes in church employees, including firing of church employees.

It is the position of the Board of Elders that the Pastor of our Church must seek and obtain the approval of the Board of Elders before hiring and firing Church employees, especially those who have served faithfully for many years.

The Rev. Jesse Rodgers refused to accept this position by the Board of Elders.

On Tuesday, January 11, the Elders, including Rev. Rodgers, who sits as one of the five members of the Board of Elders, were supposed to meet to discuss the Rev. Rodgers' stated plan to terminate Sandy Bates as Church Bookkeeper. The Rev. Rodgers refused to meet. The Elders asked Mrs. Bates to go ahead prepare some routine payroll checks for the staff and to prepare the regular deposits.

During this period, Ron Bates, a Deacon, and a person who has taken care of the Church's audio and telephone system for years, came to the office to trouble shoot a noisy phone line. He left some of his equipment in plain sight in the equipment closet. The Rev. Rodgers was in the Church later that night and saw the equipment and erroneously jumped to the conclusion that someone was trying to "tap" a church phone line. The Rev. Rodgers called in the police. The police investigated the allegation and dismissed the allegations as without any foundation. The equipment that Ron Bates left behind was not even appropriate equipment for accomplishing a wire tap.

Nevertheless, the next day, Wednesday, Rev. Rodgers demanded the written resignation of Elder Hardy Webb and Ken Nessel, in exchange for his promise not to criminally prosecute Elder Webb and Elder Nessel.

Exhibit A

Both Elder Webb and Elder Nessel refused such demand, as there was not and never had been any basis for the allegation, in the first instance.

Prior to Sunday's Church Service, the Rev. Rodgers asked the Ada Police Department to send officers to the Church, because he feared a "riot". Several Ada Police Department officers did attend the Church service.

At that service, the Rev. Rodgers falsely accused Elder Webb and Elder Nessel, and Deacon Bates of attempting to wire tap the Church phone.

The Rev Rodgers, in complete violation of the Church rules, constitution, by-laws, and long standing practice, attempted to dismiss Elder Webb and Elder Nestle from the Board of Elders.

Under our Church rules, a three member majority of the Board of Elders must vote to remove an Elder from the Board of Elders. Thus, the actions of the Rev. Rodgers were a demonstration of his lack of regard for our Church's long standing rules and practices.

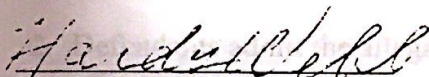
There are only two persons authorized by the Board of Elders to handle Church funds. They are the bookkeeper (Sandy Bates) and the Secretary - Treasurer, Ken Nessel. In spite of this, the Rev. Rodgers has now taken Church funds and opened up one or more other accounts in order to circumvent the long standing and well established Church policy on the handling of Church funds.

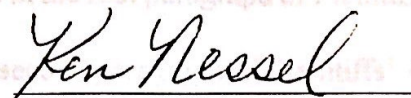
In order to resolve this dispute, and after great soul searching and prayer, the undersigned three members of the Board of Elders of Evangelistic Temple have decided to seek an order of a Court of competent jurisdiction to confirm their status as three of the five lawful members of the Board of Elders of Evangelistic Temple, of Ada, Oklahoma.

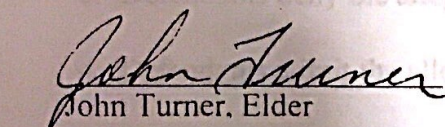
It is our view that the Church belongs to the members of the Church, not the Pastor, individually. The members have constituted the Board of Elders to act on their behalf. This we now do.

We deeply regret this dispute has come to this necessity, but we see no other way to avoid a long, protracted, and divisive dispute within our beloved Church.

With faith in God we subscribe to the foregoing statement, this 20th day of January, 2000.


Hardy Webb, Elder


Ken Nessel, Elder


John Turner, Elder